

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-06 /020 W

----- 027864

R 280640Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1585

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MUSCAT 1223

ABU DHABI FOR PAO NAIFEH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC MU US

SUBJECT: OMANI NOMINEES FOR EXCHANGE

VISITMR PROGRAM

REF: USIS ABU DHABI MESSAGE NO. 2 OF MAY 24, 1975

1. BASICALLY CONSISTENT WITH PROGRAM PROPOSALS MADE IN REFERENCED MESSAGE, EMBASSY MUSCAT NOW WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR PARTICIPATION IN FY 76 EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM. PENDING WASHINGTON DECISION ON OUR RECOMMENDATION, WE WILL NOT MAKE ANY APPROACH TO INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED. NOMINEES BELOW WHO ARE ON EMBASSY'S POTENTIAL LEADER BIOGRAPHIC REPORTING LIST (PLBRL) ARE SO NOTED.

2. FIRST RECOMMENDATION IN COUNTRY PLAN WAS FOR GRANTEE TO STUDY MANPOWER IN EDUCATION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT. WITH ARRIVAL OF SIZABLE WORLD BANK TEAM TO WORK IN THIS FIELD, EMBASSY NOW FEELS THAT OUR RESOURCES MIGHT BETTER BE CHanneLED ELSEWHERE. WE PROPOSE SUBSTITUTION BY GRANTEE IN GENERAL AREA OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

A. PRIMARY NOMINEE IS MR. MAQBOOL HAMID, UNDER SECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF DIWAN AFFAIRS (PLBRL). HAMID IS IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES. A FAST RISER, IT IS RUMORED THAT HE MAY BE NAMED MINISTER FOR DIWAN AFFAIRS (THE MINISTRY WHICH ACTS AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN LOCAL SHEIKHS AND PALACE, AS WELL AS

GENERAL WATCHDOG FOR ROYAL AFFAIRS AND APPOINTMENTS). HE IS DYNAMIC AND PERSONABLE, SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH, AND APPEARS TO BE WELL-DISPOSED TOWARDS U.S.

B. ALTERNATE IS MR. SULEIMAN HAMAD AL-HARITHI, DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS FOR MUSCAT. A MEMBER OF ONE OF MOST POWERFUL TRIBAL GROUPINGS IN OMAN, AL-HARITHI IS ABOUT THIRTY YEARS OLD. ALTHOUGH HE HAS TRAVELLED RELATIVELY WIDELY, WE DO NOT KNOW OF ANY PREVIOUS VISIT TO U.S. PERSONABLE, REASONABLY GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH (PLBRL).

3. SECOND PROPOSED GRANT WAS FOR MININFO OFFICIAL OF MANAGEMENT LEVEL IN TV.

A. PRIMARY NOMINEE IS SALEM SAID AL-SIYABI, UNDER SECRETARY FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION IN MININFO. SIYABI HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ACTIVATING PROGRAM FOR PLACING USIS MATERIALS ON LOCAL TELEVISION. EMBASSY JUDGES HIM TO BE ABOVE-AVERAGE ADMINISTRATOR (BY OMANI STANDARDS), AND HE HAS PLAN TO BE OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS FOR USIA-SPONSORED PROGRAMMING.

B. ALTERNATE IS ABDUL AZIQIBIN MUHAMMAD ROWAS, UNDER SECRETARY FOR LIAISON AND GENERAL AFFAIRS, MININFO. ROWAS IS DYNAMIC YOUNG MAN (PROBABLY MID-TWENTIES) WHO WAS DIRECTOR OF MININFO ACTIVITIES IN DHOFAR BEFORE HE CAUGHT EYE OF CENTRAL MINISTRY AND WAS ELEVATED TO PRESENT POSITION. PERSONABLE, GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH, OBVIOUSLY ON THE MOVE (PLBRL).

4. SINCE OMANI PARTICIPATED IN MULTI-REGIONAL MEDIA PROGRAM AT END OF FY 75 (LYUTHA SULTAN), EMBASSY WILL FOREGO SUGGESTED GRANT IN THAT AREA.

5. IN CATEGORY OF KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, EMBASSY STILL CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF NTOINATING DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. WE WISH TO RESERVE OUR POSITION ON THIS ONE UNTIL AMBASSADOR HAS HAD CHANCE TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL FURTHER.

6. RE PROPOSAL FOR MINHEALTH GRANTEE TO STUDY HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION:

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A. PRIMARY CANDIDATE IS HASHIM EL-KINDY, TRAINING OFFICER FOR MINHEALTH. EL-KINDY HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH PAO AND EMBOFF IN PURSUING MINISTRY'S INTEREST IN BOSTON UNIVERSITY PROGRAM. HE HAS IMPRESSED US AS DYNAMIC YOUNG MAN WITH CONSIDERABLE ADMINISTRATIVE TALENT.

B. ALTERNATE WOULD BE MALLALA JUMMA, DIRECTOR OF LABOR. ALTHOUGH NOT IN SPECIFIC FIELD, JUMMA IS TYPICAL "OMANI ON

THE MOVE" WHO WELL MIGHT BE SHIFTED FROM ONE MINISTRY TO ANOTHER AS VARIOUS HIGHER LEVEL OFFICIALS VIE FOR HIS TALENTS. JUMMA IS PROBABLY IN HIS EARLY 30'S, APPEARS WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS U.S. (PLBRL).

7. FINAL IV COVERED IN COUNTRY PLAN WAS FOR PARTICIPANT FROM GOVERNMENT ENTITY TO STUDY PLANNING PROJECT OF INTEREST TO OMAN.

A. PRIMARY CANDIDATE IS SALIM BIN NASSIR AL BU SAID, UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION. WITH FAA TECHNICIANS NOW SECONDED TO DGCA FOR PLANNING ASISTANCE AND PANAM CONTRACTED TO RUN SEEB AIRPORT, PRO-AMERICAN BIAS OF THIS MINISTRY IS SELF-EVIDENT. NASSIR ONLY RECENTLY ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITIES AS UNDER SECRETARY, BUT WAS CHOSEN FOR JOB BECAUSE OF HIS DECISIVENESS AND POLITICAL CLOUT; HE REACHES DECISIONS QUICKLY AND LOGICALLY AND CAN MAKE THEM STICK. IN HIS MID-THIRTIES, SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH (PLBRL).

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R 280640Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1586
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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ABU DHABI FOR PAO NAIFEH

B. ALTERNATE IS MOHAMMAD HASAN ALI, DIRECTOR FOR TECHNICAL AFFAIRS IN FONMIN. FORMERLY WORKED ON OFFICE OF ECONOMIC ADVISOR, DURING WHICH TIME HE PARTICIPATED IN 90-DAY UN-SPONSORED COURSE IN NEW YORK. WHEN FORMER ECONOMIC ADVISOR WENT BEHIND A POLITICAL CLOUD, HIS PROTEGE SUFFERED SOMEWHAT. HOWEVER, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT ALI'S BASIC INTELLIGENCE AND DRIVE WILL CARRY HIM THROUGH PRESENT SEMI-ECLIPSE,

AND THAT HE HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE IN OMANGOV (PLBRL).

8. ACTION REQUESTED: EARLY WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION OF THESE PROPOSALS SO THAT PLANNING CAN GO FORWARD AND TRIPS SPACED COMFORTABLY OVER NEXT THREE QUARTERS OF FISCAL YEAR.
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